

STIMBOLTER

THE ONE AND ONLY.

One

A THRILL

Issue #6A

* * * PART ONE OF TWO * * *

2 December 1988

URBANE SCRAWL Part I

I bet a bunch of you are saying, "What the hell is going on?" I know. Surprise! I got this sucker out on time finally. But as you leaf through this issue you may not see something different: it's all games! Now, now, don't get all upset. All the chatter will be back, in fact it should be getting to everyone in about three weeks. Hell, you could wrap this wrascalup and put it under the tree, a perfect gift for a loved one.

What's he doing all this for? Well, the semester is quickly running down here at the good ol' U of Va which means finals are right around the corner. What end of semester means as well is that it's time I caught up on all that reading I let slide during the greater part of the semester. Gripe, gripe. But wait, there's more! Professors are never satisfied with letting you sweat through finals, they've got to give you papers which inevitably come due the week before the dreaded exams. But enough; I know, you don't want me to burden you with all my problems. I just thought that in this season of sharing and good will I'd just let you know that everything isn't so sparkling in "Da Iforee Iowah off Loining."

Here's a thought: I may be jacking subscription rates sometime in the future. But don't sweat it; it would only be a couple nickels at most and I'll give you ample warning.

Oh yeah, where are the letters? Well, I knew I didn't have the time to put out a full issue but I did want to keep the games on track. Therefore, I decided to put out the game results with a minimum of chat now and publish the bulk of the sixth issue [letters, seemingly endless editorial comments, quiz results, cartoons, etc] once finals are over but before X-mas. Also inside this issue you'll find the latest BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, as well as a plead for standby Snowfighters. Please, if anyone out there is interested in signing on, read THE GRAND BIZARRE and get back to me ASAP.

I've got quite a few letters on file that are just begging to be printed. I thank you all for your interest and guarantee you that they will be printed soon. And to those of you who didn't write I urge you to do so if you get the inkling. I really enjoy hearing from all of you, whether you agree with me or not.

Quick hobby note: I do believe I've come of age in the hobby as both a GM and a publisher. One of the players in the "1k" game resigned over the build situation. Granted, deadlines were tight last issue but I was flexible enough so that they were makable. Well, as a result of missed builds I got what I consider to be my first pieces of "bitter" hobby related mail requesting "a full refund as I did not receive advance notice of your total irresponsibility," and advising me to "rethink if you should publish a zine or not." Quick! It's a bitch, isn't it?

"Units Here, Units There, Units Bouncing Everywhere"

The Players:

AUSTRIA	Andrew YORK	14001 Oak Meadows #917, Universal City, TX 78148
ENGLAND	Chris HURLEY	3508 Orbitan Rd, Parkville, MD 21234
FRANCE	David ORNE	1234 Reynolds Rd #242, Lakeland, FL 33801
GERMANY	Jim DIEHL	10530 Riverview Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
ITALY	Chuck HANNA	379 Wilet Ct, Severna Park, MD 21146
RUSSIA	Jim NICKEL	426 East Columbia St, Falls Church, VA 22046
TURKEY	Charles GREGER	2621 McCulloch Apt #1A, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Spring 1902 Orders

AUSTRIA	built A VIE, A TRI F GRE S ITA F ION-aeq [nsol], A SER S A BUD-rum, A BUD-rum, A VIE-gal, A TRI-bud
ENGLAND	built F EDI F edi-NWG, A NWY S GER F DEN-swe [nsol], F NTH S A NWY, F ENG S F NTH
FRANCE	built F BRE, F MAR F mao-NAO, F bre-PIC, F mar-SPA(sc), A spa-GAS, A POR H
GERMANY	built A MUN, A BER, F KIE F kie-HOL, A BEL S F kie-HOL, A hol-RUH, A mun-BOH, A ber-MUN, F DEN H
ITALY	built F NAP A TYO H, A TUN H, F nap-TYN, F ION S AUS F GRE-aeq [nsol]
RUSSIA	built F STP(nc) F STP(nc)-nwy, F SWE S F STP(nc)-nwy, F SEV H, A MOS S F SEV, A UKR-gal
TURKEY	built F CON F CON S A BUL, F BLA C A ARM-rum, A ARM-rum, A BUL S A ARM-rum

GAME NOTES:

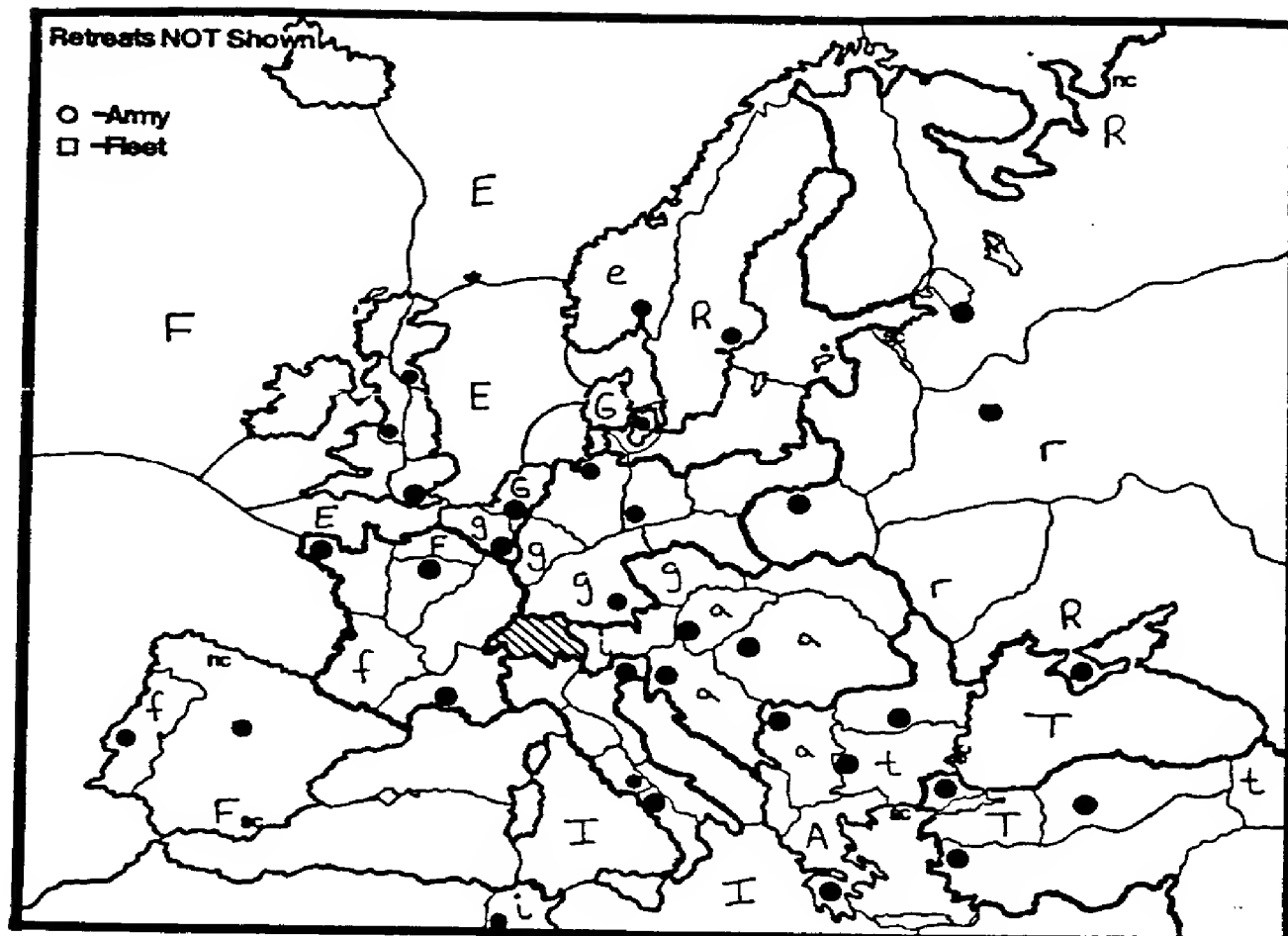
* Okay, listen up people! Extra long deadlines this time around, as it is the holiday season, mail takes a longer time to get from there to here, and I'm going to be gone for much of X-mas break. Therefore, deadline for Fall 1902 orders and press is 18 January 1989. Mail early!

* Merry X-mas!

THE PRESS:

BUCHAREST (Feb 19, 1902) : Tensions remain high in this small and now isolated country as "The Great Siege" continues. Rumania has been surrounded by the three major powers of eastern Europe for close to nine months, and military observers here are amazed that the tiny native forces have held out so long. Some military strategists blame a lack of cooperation between Austria, Russia, and Turkey for the protraction of the conflict, while others admire the Rumanian army and its perfection of a new battlefield tactic. This tactic, known as the "duck and burrow" technique, causes ones opponent to fire over the defender's position and create casualties on another enemy force on the opposite side of the perimeter. The use of this tactic not only prevents friendly losses but also conserves ammunition.

"The Great Siege" has caused a halt to the long civilwar in this country, which has raged for 50 years over the proper spelling of the country's name. The Romanian guerillas have left their mountain hiding places in great numbers in order to join the



Rumanian army in defense of their common homeland. Of course, those who were not shot on sight were arrested and subsequently executed, but as it is said here in Bucharest, "it's the thought that counts."

LUXEMBOURG - GERMANY : We have intercepted a recent Berlin-Munich communique, and we wish to humbly point out that you have misspelled the word "raised." If this strikes you as arrogant and prompts a desire for a retaliatory attack, go ahead and try to invade us! You'll have to find us first!

IT WAS AWFUL...I WAS LYING THERE WITH RADISHES AND CUCUMBERS AND LETTUCE...AND THERE WAS CREAMY ITALIAN ALL OVER ME...



"Europe Wracked By Missing Leaders Presses On

The Players

AUSTRIA	Thomas THORNSSEN	113 Glensummer Rd, Holbrook, NY 11741
ENGLAND	Barry HAWES	11411 Old Pond Dr, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
FRANCE	Pete GAUGHAN	3105 East Park Row #132, Arlington, TX 76010-3710
GERMANY	Brad WILSON	PO Box 126, Wayne, PA 19087
ITALY	Jim DIEHL	10530 Riverview Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
RUSSIA	Vince SHOUBA	PO Box 2671, Houston, TX 77252
	[Dec 20 - Jan 10]-->	320 S LaGrange Rd, LaGrange, IL 60525
TURKEY	Eric WALTON	PO Box 187 Station B, Nashville, TN 37275

Spring 1902 Orders

AUSTRIA	built A VIE A tri-BUD, A VIE S A tri-BUD, F GRE-bul(sc), A ser S F GRE-bul(sc) [d, r - alb, tri, otb]
ENGLAND	built F LON NMR! F NWG H, F NTH H, F LON H, A NWY H
FRANCE	built A PAR, A MAR F por-MAO, A spa-GAS, A PIC-bel, A par-BUR, A MAR S A par-BUR
GERMANY	NBR! [under previous German player] F DEN-swe, A HOL-bel, A RUH-bur
ITALY	built F VEN F ven-ADR, A TYD S A apu-VEN, A apu-VEN, F tun-ION
RUSSIA	built A STP, A WAR A STP H, F BOT-swe, A war-GAL, A bud-SER, A RUM S A bud-SER, F sev-BLA
TURKEY	NBR! A bel-ser [nsu and imp], A BUL H, F con-AEG, A ank-CON

GAME NOTES:

With this turn we see Brad Wilson take over as Germany [Mike Henry resigned on a particularly sour note], Eric Walton return after a NBR, and an NMR by Barry Hawes. Will Rory Noble [436 S 10th St, St Helens, OR 97051] please submit standby orders for England.

Note Vince Shouba's address for over the holidays. Any diplomatic correspondence over those weeks should be sent to the Illinois address. Phone number (312) 354-2363.

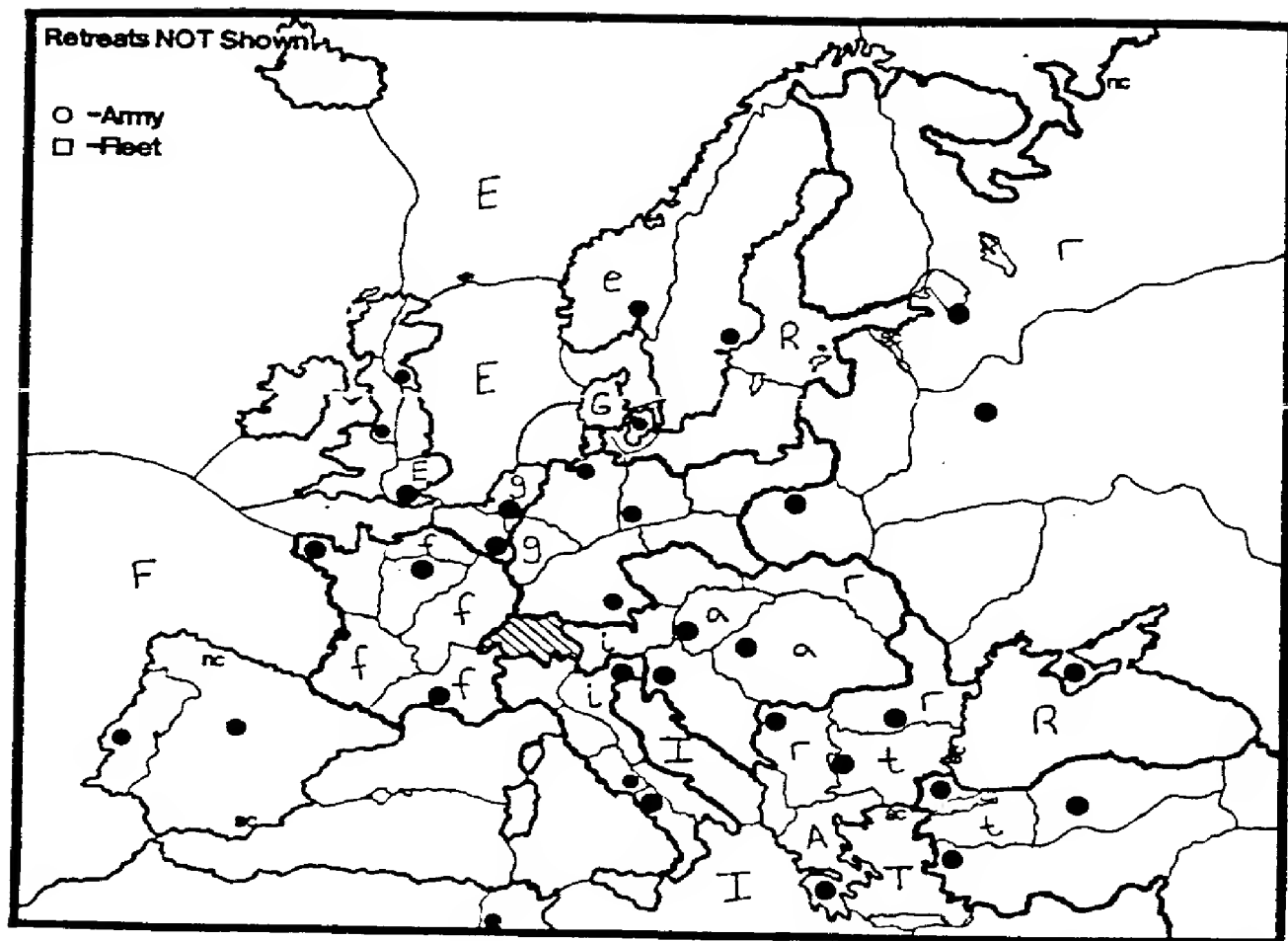
Will Thomas Thorsen please make sure to send in your retreat by ²⁰~~17~~ December 1988.

Deadline for Fall 1902 orders and press is 18 January 1988. Write much, mail early!

PRESS:

PETERSBURG : Last fall's press, misprinted, should read "doubts not."

BERLIN : God, this is an awful position. The previous Kaiser alienates the Russians in the face of an E/F alliance, and then misses the builds ... gasp!



SOMEWHERE FAR TO THE EAST : The empire of Russia is compelled to declare war on the nefarious, expansionist Japanese, and she seeks improved relations with European neighbors to allow prosecution of the oriental campaign.

URBANE SCRAWL Part II

I'm at a loss for things to write about. I've got a couple ideas written down but I really would prefer to save them for inclusion in TS #6B. I don't want to drone on about school because I know how boring a subject that can become. So what's there to talk about. Geez, Lilleleht, there's a great big world out there to consider.

Since last issue we've seen the election of a new president, an attempt by my father's homeland (now pay attention all you quiz-a-holics), Estonia, to break free of Soviet domination, a slow loosening of the grip of the South African government with regard to imprisoned ANC leaders, and, most recently, the election of a young, attractive, democratically chosen, and female Prime Minister of Pakistan. My, the times they are a'changin'. But, like everything else in this world, all this change can be deceptive. How independent is Bush really going to be of the Reagan legacy? I'd like to see a change, a bit of original thought from the man; but the way Bush is surrounding himself by close, protective friends I fear it may not really be much of a change. Estonia is almost assured of being brought back into line one way or another. Gorbachev will allow a certain amount of autonomy but nothing of this scale. The South African government is engaging in nothing more than tokenism. Something must be done to assuage the outside powers and satisfy the faint voices pushing for internal reform. But what's to be done in the face of growing white radicalism on the side of apartheid. Neo-nazi parties are rapidly gaining strength and support. I fear for the blacks of South Africa and what the future has in store for them and I pity the Afrikaaner ignorance and hate. And what of Benazir Bhutto? She inherits a very troubled nation and has to be very careful. It's not morning in Pakistan or anywhere else; it's getting dark fast and we've still got lots of work to do.

"Europe Stabilizes: Time To Party, er, War"

The Players:

This is gunboat, only I know for sure!

Remember, you are playing - _____.

Fall 1901 Orders

AUSTRIA	A ser-GRE, F ALB-tri, A VIE S F ALB-tri
ENGLAND	A edi-NWY, F NWB C A edi-NWY, F ³ nth-LON
FRANCE	A spa-POR, A gas-SPA, F eng-MAD
GERMANY	A kie-MUN, A bur-BEL, F HOL S A bur-BEL
ITALY	F ion-TUN, A TYO-vie, A VEN-tri
RUSSIA	F RUM S TUR A bul [nso], A UKR S F RUM, A mos-WAR, F bot-SWE
TURKEY	A bul-SER, F con-AEG, A ank-CON

GAME NOTES:

- * Well, we're back on track with the game after a grand total of three NMRs last season. Let's keep the promptness up and make sure to keep track of the deadlines!
- * Supply center chart below. Deadline for Winter 1901 builds is ²⁰ ~~17~~ December 1988. Mail early!
- * Deadline for Spring 1902 orders and press is the 11 January of the new year, 1989.

Supply Center Chart for Winter 1901

AUS [4]	vie, tri, bud, +GRE.....	+1; build one
ENG [4]	lon, edi, liv, +NWY.....	+1; build one
FRA [5]	bre, par, war, +SPA, +POR.....	+2; build two
GER [5]	ber, kie, mun, +HOL, +BEL.....	+2; build two
ITA [4]	rom, nap, ven, +TUN.....	+1; build one
RUS [6]	stp, mos, war, sev, +RUM, +SWE.....	+2; build two
TUR [4]	con, smy, ank, +SER.....	+1; build one

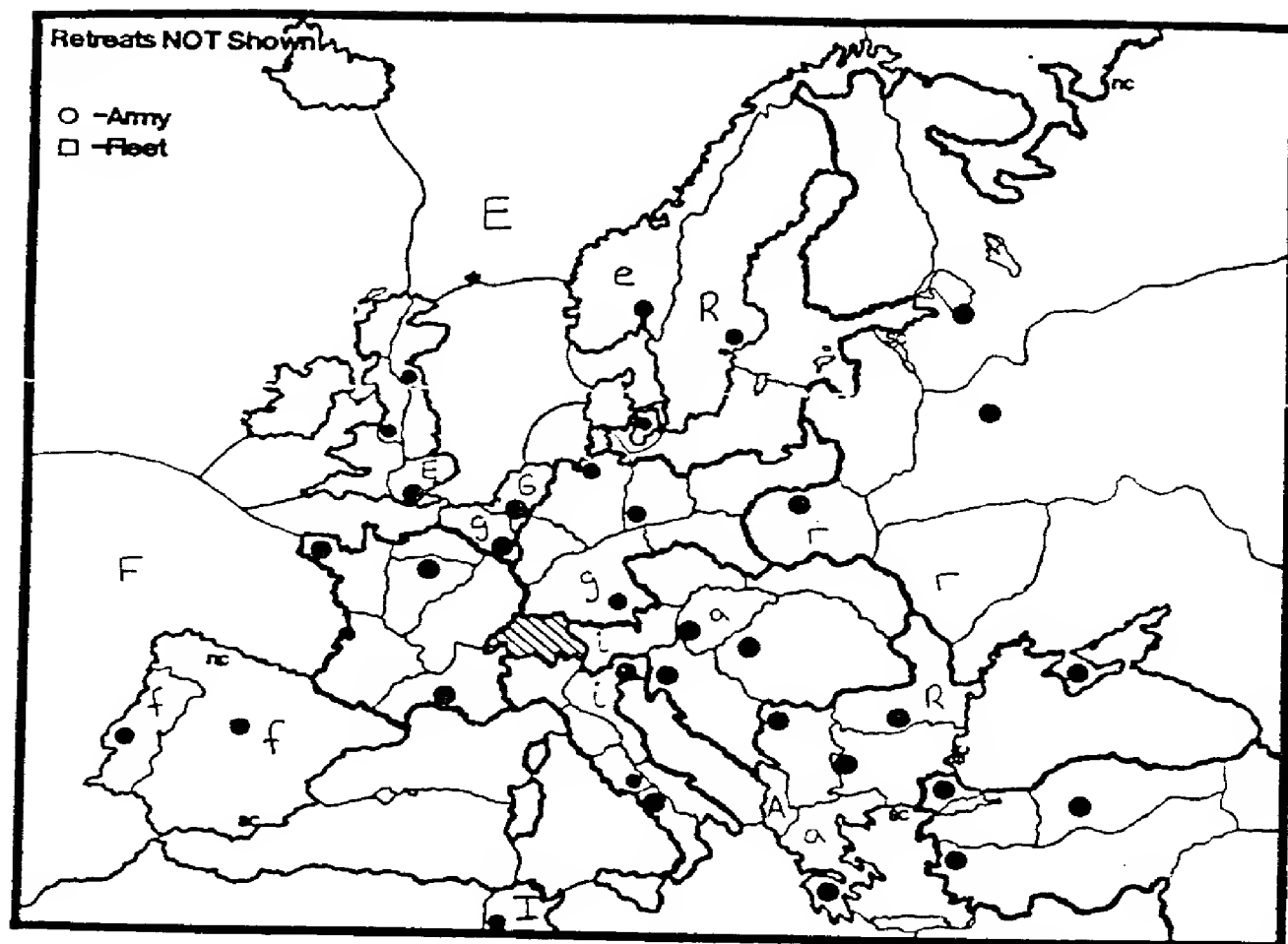
THE PRESS:

TURKEY - TURKEYS : NMRs, my ass! How the hell can I choose a friendly neighborhood ally when A/R are the same phantom, proxy, substitute, standard opening-move slime? Get in the game, will ya!

GM - TURKEY : Hey, that "opening-move slime" saved my butt last season. But I agree, let's get the ball rolling people!

ROME : 3 NMRs! I cry for you Europe! <<Here's a hanky.>>

CON - OTHERS : The voluminous press being released so far obviously has poor Mark up until 3 or 4 AM typing away. What say we trim down this tripe so he can get some rest. Finals should be coming soon, right Mark?



HOODVILLE - CON : Oh ghad, please don't mention that word! Finals are about a week and a half down the road. But between now and then I've got about twenty pages of papers coming due as well, not to mention all that damn reading I've been putting off. Argh, save me!!!

CON - AEG : Going sailing? Mind if I come along? You're going where? In that case we'll probably run into <<censored>>. Maybe he can give us directions to <<censored>>.

STERN BM - CON : Now, now. Trying a little back-handed diplomacy? We'll have none of that here you sly devil you.

MUSIC NEWS

[In Lieu Of A Playlist 'Cause I'm Too Lazy To Dig Through My Tapes]

Well, I did it. I know Dick Martin did the same thing a couple months back; we're trend setters. I broke down and got myself a CD player. Unfortunately, I don't get to play with it till X-mas as I was able to convince my Gramma to get it for me; hell, I can wait a month in order to save \$500. It's a Denon CDC-840 [I think] and it sounds absolutely fabulous. I cheated and hooked the thing up to my stereo for about an hour in order to test the thing out and was blown away. The first CDs bought?

Mississippi John Hurt, TODAY!; Taj Mahal, THE BEST OF ... VOL 1; Crea, FRESH CREAM; The Doors, ALIVE, SHE CRIED!; Fairport Convention, LIEGE AND LIEF; U2, RATTLE AND HUM; Fishbone, TRUTH AND SOUL; and Led Zeppelin, LED ZEPPELIN I.

Overall, I think quite a nice mix. Some blues, classic rock, funk, plus some reggae on order from Shanachie Records. I tell ya, I can barely wait to get my greedy little mits on that CD player. I know I'm going to blow inordinate amounts of money on CDs over the first few months but, hey, I'm worth it! Okay, maybe not, but I can pretend. And if you want copies of anything just send a tape and enough \$\$ for postage.

The Grand Bizarre

Issue Two

I don't know what it is but something about me must attract people with a tendency to NMR. Grrrrr! Well, as a result, the gamestart is delayed till the next issue, the real issue, of the pine comes out. As things stand right now, I have two correct sets of orders on file, one that needs to be slightly corrected, one that needs to be explained in greater detail, and on top of it all, I'm missing two sets of orders. Well, the map stands as set up and I'm calling stanbys for the two missing players. Read on and weep with us. Hell, it's cold out there.

Khoi-San — Game Delayed!

Well, as you can probably figure out for yourselves, the map situation has not changed since last issue. Hopefully, all seven players will have orders in to me ASAP. Right now here's how things look:

David Hood (DH).....03
Chris Hurley (CH).....55
Andrew York (AY).....05
Bill Salvatore (BS).....17
Michael Schnelker (MS).....59
Pete Gaughan (PG).....12
Eric Walton (EW).....015

Addresses were printed last issue so refer to that if you intend to carry on any diplomatic correspondence.

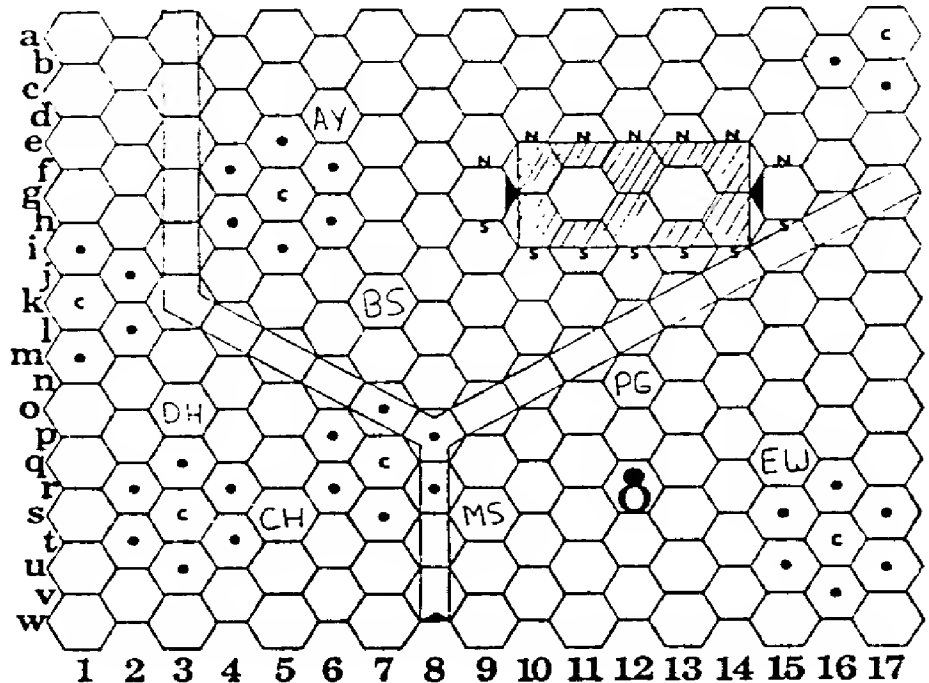
Most of the optional rules will not be used, however, the one optional attack, the "Hise Hammer" will be allowed. So crank it up guys.

As for the origin of the game name: it is one of the many names given to the Bushmen of the Kalahari. Talk about your climatic contrasts.

Change of, corrections of, or elaboration of orders are due by 17 December 1988. I'm asking Jason Beromann [Box 23780, Atlanta, GA 30322 till 20 Dec and 10740 Lathrop, Dallas, TX 75229 till 15 Jan] to standby for Bill Salvatore. He's the only Snow Fighting stanby I have signed up so the first person to submit moves for Michael Schnelker will take over the position if Michael doesn't respond. If no moves are sent in Michael's persona will make a beeline for the kitchen until someone takes the position over. One more thing, how about some press? Someone? Anyone?

Send dem orders [and press!] to: Junior SnowMastr, Mark Lilleleht

-Quickie Note Regarding Snowball Fighting -



BACKWASH
[Urbane Scrawl Part III]

Well, that wraps up this half of issue number six of THE SCRIBBLERIST. I hope to get the second, and more substantial, part of issue number six into the mail by 22 December. So, if it doesn't get to you before the 25th, have a merry X-mas. I'll be going up to Lodi, Ohio to visit my mother's side of the family [incl. grandfolks, cousins, aunt and uncle, parents, and a sister that I haven't seen since the summer who lived up in Mass. not far from Brux]. I do hope all of you kick back and enjoy the holidays however you may choose to do so.

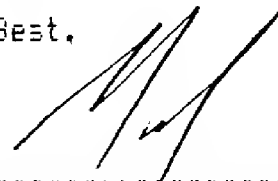
And no, issues #6A and #6B will not be assessed as two issues on your subscriptions. It's all one big, and very inexpensive X-mas package. Free half-issues for the quiz have already been tacked on to every participant's sub, rounded up.

I'm really proud of the way this little publication is coming along. I also apologize for any inconvenience delays may have caused in the past; hopefully that's all over with now. One last thing: I'm still trying to fill that novice game, so any publishers out there who come in contact with novices I would appreciate a reference.

Reader poll will be in #6B; send in any questions you'd like asked of your fellow subscribers.

Well, enjoy IS #6A, take care, and have a very merry Christmas!

Best,



Actual Handwritten Correspondence To You (maybe)

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Been There, Done That is a Diplomacy subzine to both Mark Lilleheht's The Scribblerist in hard copy and distributed through the U.S.P.S., and Ken Hill's The Armchair Diplomat in electronic format and distributed via download from Data Library 5 of the Gamer's Forum on the Compuserve Information Network. Players, standers by, a few traders, and anyone else whom the fancy strikes me will also receive it through the mail. Diplomacy is owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co., and was invented by Alan Calhamer. But you already knew that, didn't you?

Hello. Welcome to the second issue. I'm losing it. This has not been my week, or two for that matter. Ever since returning from our vacation through the southeast in the end of October through early November, through Mark's territory for that matter, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah Valley, down through N. Carolina to Charleston S.C. (a thoroughly charming city), and back along the coast, through Myrtle Beach and the Outer Banks, ending up in Williamsburg for a day on perhaps the loveliest late Autumn day in my memory... it's all been down hill. A small example but typical: I experienced my first NMR in almost 3 years of PBM and PBEM Diplomacy. Checking with the GM, my orders got there alright, 2 days late but postmarked a full week before the deadline. This was in BOAST, and effected 3 games. In one, I was a 9 center Germany in 1904. I missed a combined winter/spring move that cost me 4 units! How? A retreat not received so the GM, as is his wont, retreated the unit off the board (NOT what I would have done). Two builds not received, and a unit I would have supported losing that support and being dislodged and eliminated. Sigh.

Then Thursday, it got worse. I was flying to Columbus to teach a day-long workshop. First, I brought the wrong ticket with me to the airport. Then, as there was only one ticket agent on duty, I missed my plane. So I got a different flight connecting through Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, my connecting flight had a flat tire on the runway in Boston, so I laid over for 2 1/2 hours in the Pittsburgh airport. It's just been like that recently. I need another vacation.

Mike Morris was the only reader to explicitly identify the name of BT,DT's first game - Choo Choo Coleman. Not only that, but knew his 1962 batting average. If you don't remember Choo Choo, maybe you'll recognize the name of BT,DT's second game - "Ello Chacon."

THE STANDBY LIST

Yep, I actually got some suckers volunteers. These brave souls keeping the world safe for democracy are : Jason Bergmann, Tim Moore, Mike Morris, Steve Heinowski, Vince Lutterbie, Stephen Dorneman, and Paul Milewski. More are needed. But please, somebody answer this: I'm not paranoid, but what does it mean when a certain zine pubber who shall go nameless (but who's initials are M.L.) publicly brags in

his zine that he is a standby in virtually every zine in the hobby, yet when his own subzine pubber pleads, nay, publicly begs for standbys in that same issue, said pubber blatantly ignores the plea? Tryin' to tell me something Mark? Yeah, well just remember, the Austrian player in our game in Perelandra IS a standby here! So watch your back! If Chris Carrier is reading this, please prepare a Feud Number, just in case (oh what the hell, Karel Alaric, you too, how about a Feud Number Under the Most Holy Covenant of Covenants).

Status of next regular Dip game - 3 signed up - Karl Hoffman, Vince Lutterbie (don't you love this guy!), and Tim Moore. One game fee paid - Moore. Need four more to get the game under way.

One person signed up for a Gunboat game. Six more needed to make this a go.

You're sick of SHING roundtables, bored with tactical analyses, so now a new feature from RLRI:

YOU BE THE DIPLOMAT!

SITUATION #1: You receive a new gamestart notice. You've drawn Italy. You look over the other players. Hmmm.... Morton Downey Jr. has Austria. The Reverend Al Sharpton has Turkey, Roy Innis has France, Geraldo Rivera has England, Lee Atwater has Germany, and Russia is played by Robin Givens, assisted by her mother. You check the house rules; physical intimidation is not specifically prohibited.

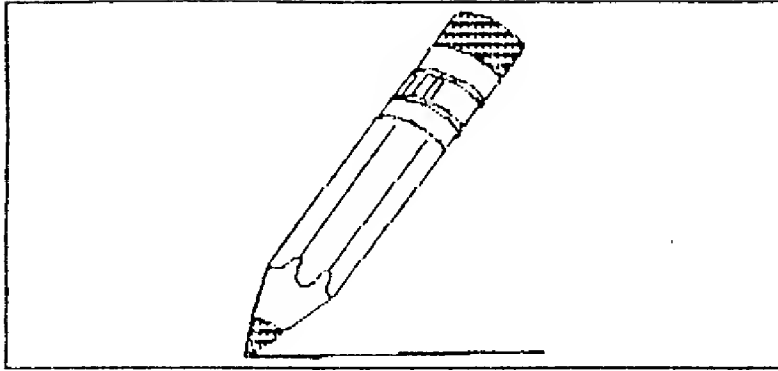
What alliance structure do you pursue and why?

SITUATION #2: You receive another gamestart notice. You get Italy again (it's been one of those months). You peruse the list of other players. Melinda Holley has Austria. A bad sign. Hmmm... She's also got Turkey. France is played by Melinda Holley. As is England. The German position is held by Melinda Holley. Yow. It gets worse. Russia is.. well you get the point.irate, you dash off a letter of protest to the GM. A letter comes in response from the GM, Melinda Holley. She was desperate to play in and GM more games, and yours was the only game request she had on file. So... Not satisfied you write in protest to the B.N.C. for a regularity ruling. To your horror, you receive a letter from Steve Heinowski's brand new successor... the lady from West Virginia, Melinda Holley. She rules the game regular. The hobby ombudsman? Worth a try, and your response comes from the new hobby ombudswoman... you got it. At this point you give in and decide to play the damned game. What alliance structure do you pursue and why?

I promise to print any answers I get to these questions!

The Letter Column

Yeah, I actually got a few pieces of mail this month. In fact, I got even more than this, but in the disorganization of the last few weeks I mentioned above, I lost a nice post card from Jason Bergmann, and accidentally deleted an electronic mail note from Mike Morris. None of these are made up, I swear!



Tim Moore: "Hello Mr. Publisher! Just caught your premier issue through Mark Lilleheht's The Scribblerist and really enjoyed it. Being so new to the hobby itself (dare we say.... novice?), I agree that the feuding going on in the hobby is entertaining, intriguing, gives an albeit colored view on the history of the hobby, and is fun as hell to watch. But with so little info on how it all started, I'm really lost as to

who did what to whom. I guess what I'm trying to say is that you could probably do a retrospective of the highlights (tongue in cheek) much the way your Dipdom Tattler is. It would make great reading!

"Enclosed is \$5 for a gamestart and put me down as a standby in Choo Choo Coleman (where did that name come from?). But I've got a question I really need answered. From what I can tell, most people really into the hobby sub to 4-5 zines, play 6-7 games, maybe even in your case start to publish. How do you keep all the games straight? Osmosis? Hindu cooking? what is it? With all the different house rules, how do you send out your orders (at staggered deadline times) correctly? Last I heard they weren't selling any Crays to the public, so that can't be it. Am I being monumentally naive (easy for a novice)? and the hobby just grows on you in time? I'd like to know what makes a hobbyist tick. Care to help me out?"

((First of all, Tim, thanks for the vote of confidence. Now to deal with your questions and comments - Choo Choo Coleman was a hapless catcher for the even more hapless 1962 N.Y. Mets. As I said above, Mike Morris even remembers his '62 batting average, and perhaps will send it back along for publication. As for the history of the hobby feuds, I wouldn't even think about writing a history of it all, humorous or otherwise. That seems like a sure fire way to offend someone mightily, and end up as a participant rather than an historian. No, I'll leave that up to Alan Stewart, who threatened, er, offered to someday write the history of the Great Feud with help from Chris Carrier. Now that would be interesting! However, I wouldn't count on seeing it soon, as Alan seems to be having major difficulties getting Praxis out these days. When was the last issue? August? But I have this theory, which I know isn't true but cling to anyway (definition of dogma?), that all hobby feuds have as their origin a brutal stab in a Dip game in the past. One side is close to a win, when suddenly they are blindsided. Tempers fly, emotions get heated, things are said which shouldn't have been, and before you know it, Chris is issuing a Feud Number and everyone's forgotten the game.))

((I must remind you of one thing I thought I made clear in issue #1 however, Tim. I do not write the Dipdom Tattler. In fact, I have no idea who does. Or why they've chosen me to publish it. It simply appears at my house anonymously, and I feel this overwhelming compulsion to publish it. Strange but true. Would I lie?))

((As to how to organize your Dip games... not sure if I'm the best person to answer that, based on my NMR and loss of a couple of letters to this subzine, all within the past week. This sounds like a good

topic for some letters. I'd be interested to now how Melinda, Jim Diehl, Vince Lutterbie, John Crosby, Larry Bottimer, Gary Behnen, and some of those folk who have a really heavy game load do it. What I do is simple. I keep each zine I get and all the letters relating to games in it in a separate manilla file. I also list the deadlines for every zine in the appointment calendar in WordPerfect Library on my computer at home. As deadline time approaches, I go through my correspondence involved in those games, check out the game map, and mail off my orders. Sounds neat, but the problem is in what happens between getting the mail and getting it into the file. I don't file more than about once a week. So sometimes, mail disappears before making it into the file. Sigh. Any better systems out there? PBEM is easier. Just save everything to your hard disk. Only problem is a hard disk crash without a recent back-up and you're dead (right Jeff?).))

Ron Cameron: "Tom, Nice to see another unneeded piece of shit like BT,DT. Your sense of humor is copious to say the least. I was hoping more for a report on "Equalizer" ((a game in Rebel in which Mr. Cameron and I both play)) but I guess now that you are a pubber you'll let your games go to hell or become a terrorist standby like John & Kathy. Holley's the only one of you rag issuers that can walk and chew gum at the same time.

"And hey, at least Zarse and Geryk had a mother. I'd like to volunteer as a standby in your new, soon to be orphaned, game but forget it. Any GM that can't spell adjudicate adjudicate is not deserving of the title. So wear this, bud!"

((Oh that Ronster, such a kidder. Seriously, maybe I'm naive but I'm having a hard time deciding how serious this letter is and how seriously I should take it. If Chris Carrier is reading this, please ready another Feud Number, just in case (jeez, my second issue and I'm already into 2 feuds, maybe)).

Dan Cosley: "Hi, Tom. I'd LOVE to see a hardcopy version of the zine; somehow 15000 bytes rolling past my eyes on a computer screen doesn't quite have the same feel as a good solid publication. Maybe I'm just behind the times...

"And thank for wishing me luck in the game. My diplomacizing has been sort of (very) sporadic, so I'm expecting a really interesting opening. Do you have any hints for the pbem/pbm game? I've never done it before and am looking for advice, hints, mantras, or whatever else you have. Thanks, Dan."

((Another beautiful opening for a vast outpouring in the letter column! Hints for PBM/PBEM Diplomacy! Actually Dan, I have only two. Communicate with all other players as frequently as possible, and NEVER NMR! Other advice for the novice?))

Jason Bergmann: "The (sub)zine was enjoyable. You ridicule well."

((Yes, I found the postcard! Yea! Anyway, thanks for the... uh... compliment J.B.))

Mark Lilleheht: "You've gotten plenty of kudos on BT,DT ((really, where? I haven't seen 'em)). As for you surpassing me? Hah! If it gets

out of hand, I will simply, unremorsefully, and irrevocably crush you! Hear me now, Nash, and understand it yesterday, get too popular and I will be forced to eliminate you in a PCP induced psychotic rage! This death threat has been brought to you by those who feel desperately insecure and, hence, strive to achieve the power the Bad Boys once had!"

((Chris!!!!!! Get that Feud Number now! Seriously folks, is it some kind of comment of the current state of this nation's higher education system that seemingly all Dip players in college routinely made drug-induced death threats (except Karl Hoffman of course.... he's cool, as long as he keeps our alliance in 88Q)? Mark, you don't scare me. I deal with people in PCP induced psychotic rages for a living. One shot of Haldol in your tush, 2 quarts of cranberry juice a day to flush those fat cells, 4 weeks of group therapy, and you'll actually be capable of learning a few rudimentary social skills! Hope your health insurance premium is paid up. Oh and by the way, what's your mother's address?))

And now... you've asked for it, pleaded for it, begged for it...

THE DIPDOM TATTLER RETURNS!

Hi again boys and girls of dipdom! As promised last time, I have reports on a few selected topics. First of all, I was a bit premature in reporting that Kathy Caruso would publish an issue of KK/W without using even one inane nickname. She tried, and typed up a galley that eliminated every occurrence of the following words: "Greedy, Toad-Father, Boob, Pudge, Sludge, Rin Tin Toady, Hobby Sex Ghod, Candidate, Toots, Winner, Duck, Pops, PJGIV, Uncle Of Us All, Personal Life Custodian, Supreme Commander, Pet, Slappy, etc, etc." Problem was, the finished product was exactly one and a half paragraphs long. Oh well, KK, you can always try your hand as Italy in one of Nash's "Be the Diplomat" quizzes!

Meanwhile, as I also reported last month, Herb Barents has in fact bought a dictionary and uses it daily. Yes, he uses it to prop up the broken leg on the chair on which he sits to type BOAST, which if it doesn't win the hobby dyslexia award for rampant misspelling, there is no justice in this world (despite what Ron "Pedro" Cameron says about Nash). Herb did, in fact use the dictionary for its intended purpose for 19 minutes on the day he bought it, but gave up in a rage when he couldn't find "BattleTech" in it.

And speaking of silly nicknames, the Boob himself, Mr. Jim Bob Burgess, has in fact admitted, in a tearful confession to the Tattler, his love for what he calls "my music;" the collected works of Wayne Newton. "All that other crap I talk about in my zines, (sob), I get my 15 year old cousin to write the reviews. Close Lobsters indeed! This stuff's the music I can't live without," he wailed as the sweet strains of Steve and Edie's Salute to Sammy Davis Jr. filled the background. "I'm a FRAUD! I admit it. Just let me not have to hear The Feelies ever again! Bob Goulet Sings Vegas is as hard as I like my rock!"

Next month, kiddies, the Tattler has a special feature. After months of searching, we've finally found and will report on the long forgotten postal game where Bruce Linsey stabbed the then Kathy Byrne, ruining the Byrne-Olsen-Martin alliance's chance for a 3 way draw. Yes, chillun', it's the origin of the great feud!

Choo Choo Coleman

Spring 1901

Boardman Number 1988HE

Peace breaks out all over: All moves succeed, no conflicts!

Game Note: Mark Walsh resigned prior to Spring '01, the new player for England is Bill Hunter. All players were informed.

Austria (Aube): A Bud-SER; A Vie-BOH; F Tri-ALB.
England (Hunter): F Edi-NTH; A Lpl-WAL; F Lon-ENG.
France (Cosley): A Par-PIC; F Bre-MID; A Mar-GAS.
Germany (Smith): F Kie-HOL; A Mun-RUH; A Ber-KIE.
Italy (Welter): F Nap-TYS; A Rom-VEN; A Ven-TYO.
Russia (McKee): F StP(sc)-BOT; A War-SIL; A Mos-UKR; F Sev-RUM.
Turkey (Tabor): A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON; A SMY H.

((Underlined moves fail(hah!)). Units are in capitalized province. There may be maps next time, at least the hard copy version.))

Press:

<London> The Royal Navy took to the high seas today sailing from bases at Inverness and Portsmouth. This as a response to increased tensions in continental Europe. It is hoped that a major show of force will prevent hostilities from breaking out. Also the British Expeditionary Force has gone on maneuvers in Wales to achieve a high state of readiness.

<Moscow> Praying....

<Constantinople> The Exhalted Ruler of the Turkish Empire announced via his new press officer today that the rumor that he has been selling his country's residents as holiday food is both vicious and untrue. "We will not export commodities that are in demand at home," he stated. "We view this as an attempt to incite discontent among our residents and hence as an interference in our internal affairs."

In a related story, the world press corp noted that Turkey's old press officer, a portly and somewhat succulent looking fellow, had been replaced. It is rumored that he was the one that had caused the Turkish ruler's title to be officially translated as "Chief Turkey", a title which had admittedly caused some mirth in the global community. This rumor was given credence by the new press officer's insistence that the official title was actually "The Big Turkey" and any other translation would not be tolerated.

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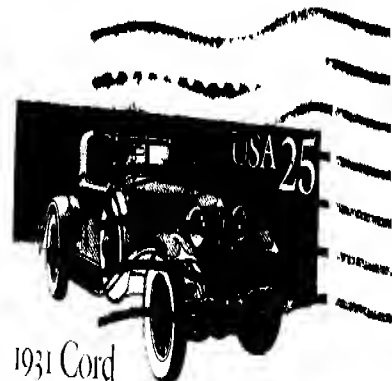
Been There, Done That is published by Tom Nash, who can be reached at 5512 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore MD, 21214. CIS ID# 74676,3310.

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THE SCRIBBLERIST is intended to be published at five week intervals by Mark Lilleht, Post Office Box 3166, Charlottesville, VA 22903-0166; phone number (804) 971-8294, call anytime though use judgement at "extreme" hours (i.e. 3-11 AM). Subscriptions are available at 10 issues for a paltry \$4.50 in the U.S., and 10 issues for \$5 to Canada. Trades, US or Canadian, are welcome and actively solicited. Back issues can be had for a \$.25 stamp apiece. I do have one game opening, a novice game. Diplomacy was invented by Allan B. Calhauer.